

NSC BRIEFING

1 March 1955

BACKGROUND

I. Soviet MA's:

Czechoslovakia: Col. Gen. A. P. Beloborodov, twice Hero of the Soviet Union (HSU).

Arrived Prague July 54.

Delivered farewell card 27 Jan 55.

Host at Soviet Army Day reception, 23 Feb 55, listed as Col. Chernovsov, "acting Soviet Military Attache."

Hungary: Lt. Gen. M. F. Tikhonov, HSU.

Arrived Budapest Nov 53.

Not seen by western diplomats after early Dec 54.

Reported travelling to Moscow in Jan 55, stated by Assistant Sov MA to be sick in early Feb 55, then stated by Sov Embassy Vice Counselor to be slated for another assignment.

Host on 23 Feb 55 was Col Scherbine, listed as "acting military attache."

Rumania: Lt. Gen. D. I. Smirnov, HSU

Arrived Bucharest Dec 53.

Delivered farewell card about 17 Feb 55.

Host on 23 Feb 55 was Col. V. J. Perepelitza, listed as "fulfilling the duties of military attache."

Bulgaria: Lt. Gen. M. N. Zavodovski, HSU.

Arrived Sofia Dec 53. 25X1C8b

Left departure card [REDACTED] about 17 Feb 55.

Host on 23 Feb 55 was Lt. Col. Evdokimov, listed as
"temporary military attache."

Albania: Lt. Gen. A. I. Rodimtsev, HSU.

Arrived Tirana Sept. 53. 25X1C8b

Reported as "probably" recalled [REDACTED]

24 Feb 55, on basis recent appearance of articles
by him in Pravda.

Poland: Lt. Gen. V. R. Vashkevich.

Arrived Warsaw April 54.

Host on 23 Feb 55 was Lt. Col. Kovalov, Assistant
Sov. MA.

China: Lt. Gen. A. F. Perushevsky.

Arrived Peiping Dec 53.

Host on 23 Feb 55 was Col. J. I. Fomenko, listed as
"acting military attache."

II. Soviet MA's assigned to East European Satellites after mid-
1953 were higher-ranking and had more distinguished combat
records than predecessors.

- A. All commanded corps or higher during World War II, where-
as most of predecessors had commanded units no larger
than division.
- B. Five were of Soviet two-star rank (Lieutenant General),
following a trend toward the upgrading of these posts
evident since 1950.

C. Czechoslovakia got the highest-ranking Soviet MA, a three-star Colonel General. This has been true since 1950.

D. All but one held the Order of the Gold Star, with accompanying title "Hero of the Soviet Union," the highest Soviet decoration.

E. At least two commanded corps under Zhukov in World War II.

III. Arrival these attaches in Satellites after mid-1953 thought to signify new phase in Satellite military development.

A. Soviet MA responsible for general supervision and training of individual Satellite force.

B. These combat officers emphasized qualitative improvement in training and combat readiness of Satellite forces, which improved noticeably following their appointments.